

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A system for enabling a consumer to submit a customizable image to be printed directly on a non-planar surface of a sugar shell candy or a jellybean comprising:

a computer, adapted to communicate with a consumer's computer and enable the consumer's computer to communicate image data over a network; and

an ink-jet printer adapted to receive the image data from the computer and print directly on a non-planar surface of a sugar shell candy or a jellybean a high quality image having a resolution greater than about 200 dpi that corresponds to the received image data in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candy or jelly beans.

32. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 31, wherein the network is the Internet and the consumer's computer is a client computer operable to run Web browser software adapted to send and receive Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) forms over the World Wide Web.

33. (Original) A system according to Claim 31, wherein the network is a local area network.

34. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 31, wherein the ink-jet printer prints on the sugar shell candy or jellybean using a dispersed pigment food-grade ink to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi even if printed using a single printhead and single pass printing.

35. (Original) A system according to Claim 34, wherein the ink-jet printer is a drop-on-demand ink-jet printer.

36. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 34, wherein the printed image has a resolution between 300 dpi and 1200 dpi.

37. (Previously Presented) A method for use on a system for enabling a consumer to submit a customizable image to be printed directly on a non-planar surface of a sugar shell candy or a jellybean, the system including a computer structured to communicate over a network with a consumer's computer, and an ink-jet printer, structured to communicate with the computer, the method comprising:

(a) the computer enabling the consumer's computer to receive image data from the consumer and communicate that image data over the network to the computer;

(b) the computer receiving the communicated image data over the network from the consumer's computer; and

(c) the ink-jet printer receiving the image data from the computer and printing directly on the non-planar surface of the sugar shell candy or

jellybean a high quality image having a resolution greater than about 200 dpi that corresponds to the received image data in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candy or jelly beans.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 37, wherein the network is the Internet and the consumer's computer is a client computer, step (a) being executed by operations of Web browser software operating on the consumer's computer and adapted to send and receive Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) forms to and from the computer over the World Wide Web.

39. (Original) A method according to Claim 37, wherein the network is a local area network.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 37, wherein in step (c) the ink-jet printer prints on the sugar shell candy or jellybean using a dispersed pigment food-grade ink to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi even if printed using a single printhead and single pass printing.

41. (Original) A method according to Claim 40, wherein the ink-jet printer is a drop-on-demand ink-jet printer.

42. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 40, wherein the printed image has a resolution between 300 dpi and 1200 dpi.

43. (Previously Presented) A system for enabling a consumer to submit, over the Internet, a customizable image to be printed directly on a non-planar surface of a sugar shell candy or a jellybean, comprising:

a server computer, adapted to communicate with a client computer and enable the client computer to receive image data from the consumer and communicate the image data over the Internet to the server computer, the server computer being adapted to receive the transmitted image data over the Internet; and

an ink-jet printer adapted to receive the image data from the server computer and print directly on a non-planar surface of a sugar shell candy or a jellybean a high quality image having a resolution of greater than about 200 dpi that corresponds to the received image data in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candy or jelly beans.

44. (Original) A system according to Claim 43, wherein the client computer is operable to run Web browser software adapted to send and receive Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) forms over the World Wide Web.

45. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 43, wherein the ink-jet printer prints directly on the sugar shell candy or jellybean using a dispersed pigment food-grade ink to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi even if printed using a single printhead and single pass printing.

46. (Original) A system according to Claim 45, wherein the ink-jet printer is a drop-on-demand ink-jet printer.

47. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 45, wherein the printed image has a resolution between 300 dpi and 1200 dpi.

48. (Previously Presented) A system for custom manufacturing a decorated confectionery product on the basis of instructions of a consumer, the system comprising:

a server computer adapted to:
communicate over a network with a client computer of the consumer,
receive over the network, from the client computer, customizable image information submitted to the client computer by the consumer, and
communicate the received image information to an ink-jet printer to cause printing directly on a non-planar surface of a sugar shell candy or a jellybean of a high quality image having a resolution of greater than about 200 dpi that corresponds with the received image information in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candy or jelly beans.

49. (Original) A system according to Claim 48, wherein the network is the Internet and the client computer is operable to run Web browser software

adapted to send and receive Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) forms over the World Wide Web.

50. (Original) A system according to Claim 48, wherein the network is a local area network.

51. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 48, wherein the ink-jet printer prints directly on the confectionery product using a dispersed pigment food-grade ink to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi even if printed using a single printhead and single pass printing.

52. (Original) A system according to Claim 51, wherein the ink-jet printer is a drop-on-demand ink-jet printer.

53. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 51, wherein the printed image has a resolution between 300 dpi and 1200 dpi.

54. (Previously Presented) A method on a server computer on a network for facilitating custom manufacturing of a decorated confectionery product on the basis of instructions of a consumer, the method comprising:

communicating over the network with a client computer of the consumer,

receiving over the network, from the client computer, customizable image information submitted to the client computer by the consumer, and

communicating the received image information to an ink-jet printer to cause printing directly on a non-planar surface of a sugar shell candy or a jellybean of a high quality image having a resolution greater than about 200 dpi that corresponds with the received image information in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candy or jelly beans.

55. (Original) A method according to Claim 54, wherein the network is the Internet and the client computer is operable to run Web browser software adapted to send and receive Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) forms over the World Wide Web.

56. (Original) A method according to Claim 54, wherein the network is a local area network.

57. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 54, wherein the ink-jet printer prints directly on the confectionery product using a dispersed pigment food-grade ink to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi even if printed using a single printhead and single pass printing.

58. (Original) A method according to Claim 57, wherein the ink-jet printer is a drop-on-demand ink-jet printer.

59. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57, wherein the printed image has a resolution between 300 dpi and 1200 dpi.

60. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium storing executable code adapted to control a server computer on a network to perform a method for facilitating custom manufacturing of a decorated confectionery product on the basis of instructions of a consumer, the method comprising:

communicating over the network with a client computer of the consumer,

receiving over the network, from the client computer, customizable image information submitted to the client computer by the consumer, and

communicating the received image information to an ink-jet printer to cause printing directly on a non-planar surface of a sugar shell candy or a jellybean of a high quality image having a resolution of greater than about 200 dpi that corresponds with the received image information in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candy or jelly beans.

61. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 60, wherein the network is the Internet and the client computer is operable to run Web browser software adapted to send and receive Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) forms over the World Wide Web.

62. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 60, wherein the network is a local area network.

63. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 60, wherein the ink-jet printer prints directly on the confectionery product using a dispersed pigment food-grade ink to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi even if printed using a single printhead and single pass printing.

64. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 63, wherein the ink-jet printer is a drop-on-demand ink-jet printer.

65. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 63, wherein the printed image has a resolution between 300 dpi and 1200 dpi.

66.-82. (Cancelled)

83. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 31, further comprising a subsystem for holding sugar shell candies or jellybeans transiently in position and serially transporting them past a printhead for printing.

84. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 37, further comprising the step of holding sugar shell candies or jellybeans transiently in position and serially transporting them past a printhead for printing.

85. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 43, further comprising a subsystem for holding sugar shell candies or jellybeans transiently in position and serially transporting them past a printhead for printing.

86. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 48, further comprising a subsystem for holding sugar shell candies or jellybeans transiently in position and serially transporting them past a printhead for printing.

87. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 54, further comprising the step of holding sugar shell candies or jellybeans transiently in position and serially transporting them past a printhead for printing.

88. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 31, wherein the customizable image is a personalized message.

89. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein the customizable image is a personalized message.

90. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 43, wherein the customizable image is a personalized message.

91. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 48, wherein the customizable image is a personalized message.

92. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 54, wherein the customizable image is a personalized message.

93. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 31, further comprising an image processor adapted to process the image data and to allow the consumer to preview options for decoration of said sugar shell candy or jellybean.

94. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein the system comprises an image processor adapted to process the image data and to allow the consumer to preview options for decoration of said sugar shell candy or jellybean,

the method further comprising processing the image data according to selection by the consumer and permitting preview by the consumer of the customized image.

95. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 43, further comprising an image processor adapted to process the image data and to allow the consumer to preview options for decoration of said sugar shell candy or jellybean.

96. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 48, wherein the server computer is adapted to process the image information according to selection by the consumer and permit preview by the consumer of the decorated confectionery product.

97. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 54, further comprising processing the image information according to selection by the consumer and permitting preview by the consumer of the decorated confectionery product.